

Appl. No. 10/700,233  
Amdt. Dated: October 16, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of 08/14/2006

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A curable resinous composition comprising:
  - (A) an epoxy resin;
  - (B) two or more carboxylic acid anhydrides;
  - (C) at least one inorganic filler wherein at least 80% of the particles of the filler have a particle diameter size of from between about 10 to about 40 microns; and
  - (D) at least one inorganic filler wherein at least 80% of the particles of the filler have a particle diameter size greater than about 90 microns;

wherein at least one of the two or more carboxylic acid anhydrides is an aromatic acid anhydride and at least one of the other carboxylic acid anhydrides is an alicyclic acid anhydride.
2. (Original) The curable resinous composition of claim 1, wherein the at least one inorganic filler of (C) is sand.
3. (Original) The curable resinous composition of claim 1, wherein the at least one inorganic filler of (D) is granite chips.

4. (Currently amended) The curable resinous composition of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ alicyclic carboxylic acid anhydride is selected from the group consisting of methyltetrahydrophthalic anhydride, hexahydrophthalic anhydride and methylhexahydrophthalic anhydride.
5. (Currently amended) The curable resinous composition of claim 4, wherein the ~~at least one~~ alicyclic carboxylic acid anhydride is a mixture of two or more alicyclic anhydrides selected from methyltetrahydrophthalic anhydride, hexahydrophthalic anhydride and methylhexahydrophthalic anhydride.
6. (Currently amended) The curable resinous composition of claim 5, wherein the ~~at least one~~ alicyclic carboxylic acid anhydride is a mixture of from about 45-55% by weight hexahydrophthalic anhydride and 55-45% by weight methylhexahydrophthalic anhydride.
7. (Currently amended) The curable resinous composition of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ aromatic carboxylic acid anhydride is selected from the group consisting of an anhydride of phthalic acid, isophthalic acid, pyromellitic acid and benzophenone-3,3',4,4'-tetracarboxylic acid.
8. (Currently amended) The curable resinous composition of claim 7, wherein the ~~at least one~~ aromatic carboxylic acid anhydride is phthalic anhydride.

9. (Original) The curable resinous composition of claim 8, wherein the phthalic anhydride is flake phthalic anhydride.
10. (Original) The curable resinous composition of claim 1, wherein the at least one inorganic filler of (C) is a naturally occurring inorganic material.
11. (Previously presented) The curable resinous composition of claim 10, wherein the naturally occurring inorganic material is selected from the group consisting of silica stone, silica sand, diatomaceous earth, kaolin, halloysite, montmorillonite, bentonite, zeolite, phosphorite, diaspore, gibbsite, bauxite, Japanese acid clay, porcelain stone, pyrophyllite rock, feldspars, limestone, wollastonite, gypsum, dolomite, magnesite and talc.
12. (Original) The curable resinous composition of claim 11, wherein the naturally occurring inorganic material is sand.
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The curable resinous composition of claim 13, wherein the at least one inorganic filler of (D) further comprises granite chips.
16. (Original) The curable resinous composition of claim 15, wherein the weight ratio of granite chips:sand in inorganic filler (D) is between from about 2:1 to about 1:1.
17. (Original) The curable resinous composition of claim 15, wherein the at least one inorganic filler of (C) is sand and further wherein the weight ratio of inorganic filler sand (C):inorganic filler sand (D):granite chips is approximately 1:1:2.
18. (Currently amended) A curable resinous composition comprising:
  - (A) an epoxy resin;
  - (B) two or more carboxylic acid anhydrides;
  - (C) at least one naturally occurring inorganic material; and
  - (D) granite chips;

wherein at least one of the two or more carboxylic acid anhydrides is an aromatic acid anhydride and at least one of the other carboxylic acid anhydrides is an alicyclic acid anhydride.
19. (Previously presented) The curable resinous composition of claim 18, wherein the at least one aromatic carboxylic acid anhydride is selected from an anhydride of phthalic acid,

isophthalic acid, pyromellitic acid, benzophenone-3,3',4,4'-tetracarboxylic acid, methyltetrahydrophthalic acid, hexahydrophthalic acid and methylhexahydrophthalic acid.

20. (Original) The curable resinous composition of claim 19, wherein the at least one carboxylic acid anhydride is the combination of
  - (i.) an aromatic polycarboxylic acid selected from an anhydride of phthalic acid, isophthalic acid, pyromellitic acid and benzophenone-3,3',4,4'-tetracarboxylic acid; and
  - (ii.) at least one alicyclic anhydride selected from methyltetrahydrophthalic anhydride, hexahydrophthalic anhydride and methylhexahydrophthalic anhydride; anhydride.
21. (Original) The curable resinous composition of claim 20, wherein the at least one alicyclic anhydride is a mixture of from about 45-55% by weight hexahydrophthalic anhydride and 55-45% by weight methylhexahydrophthalic anhydride.
22. (Previously presented) The curable resinous composition of claim 18, wherein the at least one aromatic carboxylic acid anhydride is flake phthalic anhydride.
23. (Previously presented) The curable resinous composition of claim 18, wherein the at least

one naturally occurring inorganic material is selected from the group consisting of silica stone, silica sand, diatomaceous earth, kaolin, halloysite, montmorillonite, bentonite, zeolite, phosphorite, diaspore, gibbsite, bauxite, Japanese acid clay, porcelain stone, pyrophyllite rock, feldspars, limestone, wollastonite, gypsum, dolomite, magnesite and talc.

24. (Original) The curable resinous composition of claim 23, wherein the naturally occurring inorganic material is sand.
25. (Previously presented) The curable resinous composition of claim 24, wherein at least 80% of the sand particles have a particle diameter size between from about 10 microns to about 40 microns.
26. (Previously presented) The curable resinous composition of claim 25, further comprising at least one inorganic filler wherein at least 80% of the particles of the filler have a particle diameter size between from about 90 microns to about 150 microns.
27. (Previously presented) A curable resinous composition comprising:
  - (A) an epoxy resin;
  - (B) phthalic acid anhydride;
  - (C) a mixture of at least two alicyclic anhydrides selected from

methyltetrahydrophthalic anhydride, hexahydrophthalic anhydride and methylhexahydrophthalic anhydride;

(D) sand; and

(E) granite chips,

wherein the anhydrides comprise from about 4 to about 15 weight percent of the curable resinous composition.

28. (Original) The curable resinous composition of claim 21, wherein at least 80% of the sand particles of (D) have a mean particle size between from about 10 to about 40 microns.

29. (Previously presented) A curable resinous composition which comprises:

(A) an epoxy resin;

(B) at least one anhydride of an aromatic polycarboxylic acid selected from an anhydride of phthalic acid, isophthalic acid, pyromellitic acid and benzophenone-3,3',4,4'-tetracarboxylic acid;

(C) at least one alicyclic anhydride selected from methyltetrahydrophthalic anhydride, hexahydrophthalic anhydride and methylhexahydrophthalic anhydride;

(D) sand, wherein at least 80% of the sand particles have a particle diameter size of from between about 10 to about 40 microns; and

(E) at least one inorganic filler,  
wherein at least 80% of the particles of the inorganic filler have a particle diameter size greater than about 90 microns, and  
wherein the molar ratio of aromatic polycarboxylic acid anhydride to alicyclic anhydride ranges from about 1.2 : 0.8 to about 0.8 : 1.2.

30. (Original) The curable resinous composition of claim 29, wherein the at least one inorganic filler is sand or granite chips.
31. (Original) The curable resinous composition of claim 29, wherein the at least one inorganic filler is sand and granite chips.
32. (Previously presented) A scratch resistant countertop comprising the curable resinous composition of claim 1.
33. (Previously presented) The scratch resistant countertop of claim 32, wherein the resinous composition is hardened in the presence of a heat activated catalyst.
34. (Previously presented) A scratch resistant countertop comprising the curable resinous composition of claim 18.

Appl. No. 10/700,233  
Amdt. Dated: October 16, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of 08/14/2006

35. (Original) The scratch resistant countertop of claim 34, wherein the resinous composition is hardened in the presence of a heat activated catalyst.

36. (Previously presented) A scratch resistant countertop of claim 33 or claim 35, wherein the heat activated catalyst comprises a cycloaliphatic polyamine, an aromatic polyamine, a polyhydric alcohol, or an imidazole.